

UNTOLD

STORY LEADS FROM MONTANA



FALL 2000 • visitmt.com

Make a pit stop in Lewistown, Montana



Montana Chokecherries

The noble chokecherry will take center stage at the annual Montana Chokecherry Festival in Lewistown, September 9, 2000.

“You know the chokecherry eaten alone is pretty tart, but once you mix it with sugar there is nothing else like it,” explains J.R. Strand, Executive Director of the Lewistown Chamber of Commerce. According to Strand, Lewistown is known as the chokecherry capital of Montana. The area’s mountain ravines and creek sides make this

central Montana locale a natural for growing this versatile fruit.

Awards for the best chokecherry jams, jellies, cookies, syrups, wines,

The chokecherry is one of the few fruits native to the northern plains.

and even schnapps, plus the popular chokecherry pit spitting contest will all take place at the festival. “This pit spitting contest is a great to-do,” says Strand. “We have the accuracy contest in the morning and the distance competition in the afternoon.” But if you’re not interested in edible contests, the festival holds nonedible competition featuring products made from the berries, leaves and wood of the chokecherry.

The chokecherry is one of the few fruits native to the northern plains. The Plains Indians used the fruit in making pemmican (dried meat), a large staple of their diet. A tea made of chokecherry leaves and bark has also been associated with curing upset stomachs. In fact, Captain Meriwether Lewis drank this tea when he came down with a touch of intestinal troubles on his epic journey. He is reported to have recovered in a matter of hours.

For more information on the festival call the Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce at (406) 538-5436.

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Let's Rendezvous in West Yellowstone

Rumor has it that these trails may be used for pre-Olympic training before the 2002

Salt Lake City Olympics.

Some may think the town of West Yellowstone, Montana goes into hibernation after the summer months, but the exact opposite is true. Come fall, hundreds of Nordic skiers from around the country rendezvous in West Yellowstone for the annual Yellowstone Rendezvous Nordic Ski Camp, November 1–30, 2000.

"This event is for all skiing abilities," says Marysue Costello, Executive Director of the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce. "For one month skiers travel here to hone their skills at the town's 'Rendezvous Trail System.' This system boasts 30 kilometers (approximately 18 miles) of premier groomed trails in the Gallatin National Forest. Costello says the biggest events will take place over the week of Thanksgiving, November 21–29.

During this week, skiers can attend technique clinics, manufacturer exhibits, motivational talks and wax clinics, and participate in racing events. "A lot of families plan their vacations around this event," explains Costello. West Yellowstone is also the official training site for the United States Nordic and Biathlon Ski Teams. Rumor has it that these trails may be used for pre-Olympic training before the Salt Lake Olympics in 2002. Costello adds that Doug Edgerton, the trail's head groomer, has been selected to be the official groomer in Salt Lake City.

But you don't have to be an Olympic contender to enjoy cross-country skiing in West Yellowstone. Nordic skiers of all



Skiers near West Yellowstone, Montana

abilities are welcome to discover the gentle terrain and limitless trails found in and around West Yellowstone and Yellowstone National Park. Please contact the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce/CVB for more information at (406) 646-7701.

Color Your World: A Montana Autumn Drive



The Swan Range near Condon, Montana

"Autumn is a time to slow down from the rushed and hurried pace of the summer," says Kay Enyeart, Information Assistant at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station in western Montana. And there's no better way to slow down than to get into your car and take an autumn drive.

One colorful cruise that will fill your senses is Montana Highway 83 or what is often called the Seeley-Swan Highway.

Extending north from Montana Highway 200 to the village of Bigfork, this 91-mile drive, which is flanked by the Swan and Mission Mountains, touts glistening lakes and larch and pine forests. From mid-September through November, the golden yellows from the western larch, aspen and cottonwood trees line the road, while in the mountain peaks, an underbrush carpet filled with brilliant oranges and reds of the huckleberry, mountain maple and Oregon grape round out the colorful journey. "It's a great photo opportunity," explains Enyeart.

Wildlife viewing is another pleasure on this road. There are five watchable wildlife sites (look for signs) along the drive. Visitors can spot white-tailed deer, black bears, moose, eagles and

Canadian geese and the ever-present loons that inhabit the valley. If you don't have time to stop, keep an eye out as you drive the highway—you may just spot something along the road.

Why not breathe in some crisp air and enjoy the view. Other Montana autumn drives include:

- Going-to-the-Sun Road, Glacier National Park, (406)888-7800 or visit www.np.gov/glac
- The Pintler Scenic Route, MT Highway 1 between Philipsburg and Anaconda, (406) 859-3388 or (406) 563-2400
- Kings Hill Scenic Byway, US Highway 89 between White Sulphur Springs and Great Falls, the Kings Hill Ranger District at (406) 547-3361

For more information on autumn drives in the national forests, call the Fall Color Hotline at (800) 354-4595 #1

Reading, Writing and Rhubarb Pie

Rolling down Interstate 15 between Dillon and Monida Pass in southwest Montana, you might have the urge to turn your cruise control on until you reach a town large enough to accommodate your fast-food cravings. However, if you ease off the pedal and pull into the tiny town of Dell, you may be in for an education in good old-fashioned home cooking.

Yesterday's Calf-A is an excellent study in low-key hospitality. The café, built in 1903, occupies what used to be the original Dell Schoolhouse. Inside, the first thing you notice is the wall-to-ceiling blackboards and the school's textbooks resting in cases. The second thing you'll notice is the aroma of fresh pies coming out of the oven. Don't wait to be seated, just pull up a seat at any lunchroom-style table and have a friendly conversation with the other "smart kids" who decided to stop by for a bite to eat.

Ruth Berchelson is the original owner of the Calf-A. She says that the playful spelling, Calf-A, was the idea of her joking husband. The couple started the restaurant on the notion that "maybe we could get some truck drivers to stop in," says Ruth. More than 20 years later, the Calf-A is now seldom less than full.

Ruth passed the business on to her granddaughter, Violet Holland in the late 1980s. Violet continues to run the Calf-A, which features entirely homemade items such as roast beef and chicken dishes, and lunch specials priced at \$3. If you can manage not to go overboard on dinner, save a little space for a slice of fresh-baked berry or rhubarb pie.

Ruth explains that food here "is just plain good." But most people who stop by would give it an A+. Yesterday's Calf-A is open seven days a week. Call (406) 276-3308 for more information.

Reap the Past in Eastern Montana

We've all heard of spelling bees and quilting bees, but what in the world is a threshing bee?



"A threshing bee is when folks get together and thresh (or harvest) grain like they did some 50, 60 or 70 years ago," says Rodney Iverson of Culbertson, Montana. But with the advent of modern machinery in the 1950s, the old-fashioned threshing bee began to fade away.

Relive these old days at the 37th annual Northeast Montana Threshing Bee and

Antique Show, September 23-24, 2000 in Culbertson. The demonstration of a 100-year-old wooden thresh machine at work and a parade of 80 antique tractors that date from 1908 to the 1920s will highlight this two-day event. "It's pretty impressive to see that these pieces of old scrap iron still run," says Rodney.

In the 1940s it would take a group of men a minimum of two days to harvest a 50-acre field; today, one man on a \$140,000 combine can cut the same amount of ground in a short day's work.

Rodney explains that no one will have to sit idle at this year's gathering; visitors are welcome to drive tractors or flip pancakes if they want. Log and lumber sawing, old-time fiddle music, flea markets and a pork barbecue are also planned.

Ready to hit the fields? Call Rodney Iverson at (406) 787-5265 or log onto visitmt.com for a list of other Montana threshing bees.

Montana is Kidrific

Imagine digging for dinosaur bones, riding the open range on horseback, snagging a three-pound rainbow trout from a crystal-clear stream, spotting a bald eagle floating high above a mountain ridge, mushing a team of dogs along a snow-covered trail, or marveling at the sights and sounds of an Indian powwow. Sound like a child's dream vacation? It's not, it's Montana.

To make it easier for the dream to come true, Travel Montana has revamped its kid's website, montanakids.com, and its "Kid Friendly Montana" brochure. These two learning tools will improve a child's knowledge of "Big Sky Country" and help them plan a kidrific trip to Montana.

The colorful cartoon-bordered brochure, which folds out into a wall poster entitled "What Makes Montana a Great Place for Kids?," features new graphics and pictures as well as text on Montana's geography, history, economy, wildlife, Native peoples and cultural attractions that will enlighten any child.

Montanakids.com offers visitors the same great graphics and facts as the brochure, but is packed with even more valuable information. Special features on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, historic Virginia City and famous Montanans can all be found.



Who needs to dream when there's Montana?

For a copy of the brochure call Travel Montana at 800-VISIT-MT (847-4868) or log onto www.montanakids.com.

S E P T E M B E R

- 1-2 Saco Fun Days—Saco 527-3218 or 527-3265
- 1-2 Daylight & Dark with Lewis & Clark—
Great Falls 727-8733
- 1-3 Living History—Fairview 747-5259
- 1-3 Poplar Indian Days—Poplar 768-3826 or
768-3351
- 2 Buffalo Days Celebration—Gardiner
848-7971
- 2 Wild West Day—Bigfork 837-5888
- 2 Chief Plenty Coups Day of Honor—Pryor
252-1289
- 2-3 Labor Day Wagon Train—Culbertson
787-5821
- 2-4 Labor Day Rodeo—White Sulphur Springs
547-3366
- 2-4 Blue Ribbon Artfest—Dillon 683-5511
- 3 "Running of the Sheep" Sheep Drive—
Reed Point 326-2288
- 4 Labor Day Arts Fair—Red Lodge 446-1370
- 5-10 Undercover Gals Quilt Show—Hardin
665-2525
- 6-10 Whitefish Summer Games—Whitefish
862-4035
- 7 Taste of Whitefish—Whitefish 862-3501
- 8-9 Chinook Western Days—Chinook 357-2224
- 8-9 Art & Music Festival—Butte 723-7600
- 8-10 Libby Nordicfest—Libby 293-3431 or
293-4167
- 8-10 Rendezvous & Trade Show—Missoula
442-4008
- 9 Montana State Chokecherry Festival—
Lewistown 538-5436
- 9-10 Cottonwood Folk Festival—Great Falls
452-3462
- 9-10 7th Annual NW Montana Antique
Power Association Threshing
Bee—Columbia Falls 862-7738
- 9-10 Toy & Train Show—Great Falls 761-4622 or
736-5546
- 10 Utica Day Fair—Utica 423-5364
- 10 Germanfest—Missoula 721-9620
- 13-14 Helmville Labor Day Rodeo—Helmville
288-3273
- 13-17 Ride the Russell Trail—Utica 423-5454
- 14-18 Testicle Festival—Clinton 825-4868
- 15-16 North American Indian Alliance Pow
Wow—Butte 782-0461
- 15-17 Havre Festival Days—Havre 265-4383
- 15-17 Belgrade Fall Festival—Belgrade 388-1616
- 16 Quilt Show—Broadus 436-2416
- 16 Highland Games Festival—Glasgow
228-2222
- 16-17 Threshing Bee—Choteau 466-2470
- 16-17 Big Sky Draft Horse Expo—Deer Lodge
846-2094 or 492-6752 or 846-3686
- 17 Historic Bell Street Bridge Day—Glendive
365-5601
- 18 River's Edge Trail—Blues & Brews—
Great Falls 453-0601 or 761-4966
- 18-22 Native American Awareness Week—
Pablo 675-0160
- 21-24 Montana Five Rivers Festival of Film—
Missoula 880-3378 or 728-7932
- 22-24 Laurel Herbstfest—Laurel 628-7852
- 22-24 Flathead Valley Annual Quilt
Show—Kalispell 257-4612
- 22-24 Last Chance Community Pow-Wow—
Helena 442-9267

- 23 Annual Oktoberfest—Livingston
222-2005 or 222-4410
- 23 Fall Festival—Miles City 232-2890
- 23-24 Northeast Montana Threshing Bee and
Antique Show—Culbertson 787-5265
- 29-10/1 Annual Wagon Train—Sandcreek
Clydesdales—Jordan 557-2865
- 30 Port Polson Annual Oktoberfest and
Harvest Festival—Polson 883-4345
- 30 Ocktoberfest III—Superior 822-4891 or
822-4626
- 30 Blue Mountain All Women's Run—
Missoula 721-1646
- 30-10/1 Bridger Mountain Raptor
Festival—Bozeman 585-1211

O C T O B E R

- 1 Lewis and Clark Marathon—A Journey
of Discovery—Bozeman 586-5421
- 6-9 Alta/Mont Railfan Weekend—Essex
888-5700
- 6-2/2 Artwalk Downtown—Billings 252-0122
- 7 Apple Day—Hamilton 363-3338
- 7 Fort Missoula Festival—Missoula 728-3662
- 7 Oktoberfest—Anaconda 563-2422
- 7 Old Faithful Fall Cycle Tour—West
Yellowstone 646-7701
- 7 Stillwater Run—Absarokee 322-4505
- 12-15 8th Annual Glacier Jazz Stampede—
Kalispell 758-2800
- 14 Tamarack Time!—Bigfork 837-4848 or
837-5980
- 14 Fiesta Day—Whitefish 862-3501
- 14 Celebrate the Cowpoke through Poetry
and Music—Hamilton 363-3338
- 14-15 Glacier Golden Autumn Arts and
Crafts Show and Sale—Essex 888-5700
- 17-22 NILE Stock Show and Rodeo—Billings
256-2495
- 21 Lewistown Craft Show & Sale—Lewistown
538-3640
- 28 17th Annual Autumn Art & Craft
Show—Helena 449-4790
- 28 Ghost Walks—Bannack 834-3413
- 28-29 Christmas at the Mansion—Kalispell
755-2166

N O V E M B E R

- 1-30 Cross-Country Fall Ski Camp—
West Yellowstone 646-7701
- 4 Winter Fair—Choteau 466-5340
- 4 Big Timber Christmas Bazaar and
Craft Show—Big Timber 932-4035
- 4 Wine and Food Festival—Sidney 488-2357
- 9-12 Christmas Collection—Great Falls 727-8255
- 11 Country Christmas—Lewistown 428-2316
- 11-12 Havre Art Association Annual Show &
Sale—Havre 265-2729
- 12 Helmville Craft Bazaar—Helmville
793-5530
- 16-12/31 Quilted Wonders—Miles City 232-0635
- 17 Downtown Helena Fall Art Walk—
Helena 447-1535
- 17-18 Annual Holiday Market Place—
Missoula 543-8798
- 17-19 Holiday Antiques Sale—Great Falls
761-4684 or 761-1999

- 18 Bigfork Elves Decorate for Christmas—
Bigfork 837-5888
- 18 Cut Bank Winter Festival—Cut Bank
873-5544 or 873-2337
- 18-19 Holiday Food Festival & Seasonal
Creations Craft Show—Billings 657-1246
or 657-1441
- 21-23 Holiday Market Room—Lewistown
538-8278
- 24 Christmas City of the North Parade—
Kalispell 758-2800
- 24 Christmas Stroll and Parade of Lights—
Sidney 482-1916
- 24 Christmas Stroll—Anaconda 563-3731
- 24 Holiday Parade—Billings 259-5260
- 24 Holiday Light Parade—Glendive 365-5601
- 24 Christmas Walk and Parade of
Lights—Forsyth 356-2134
- 24 Crazy Mountain Christmas—Big Timber
932-5131
- 24 Parade of Lights—Chinook 357-2224
- 24-25 Holiday Festival of the Arts—Bozeman
586-3333 or 587-8298
- 24-26 Renaissance Fair—Missoula 538-2212
- 24-26 Artists and Craftsman Christmas
Show—Kalispell 881-4288
- 25 Christmas Stroll—Havre 265-4383
- 25 Silver Bells—Fairview 742-5259
- 25 Madison Valley Women's Club
Holiday Craft Bazaar—Ennis 682-7290
- 25 Absarokee Holiday Craft Show—
Absarokee 322-4505 or 328-7250
- 25-27 Huff's Antique Show and Sale—Billings
628-4493
- 27-12/7 Moss Mansion Holiday Tours—Billings
256-5100
- 30-12/2 Festival of Trees—Butte 782-0353
- 30-12/3 Festival of Trees—Billings 252-9799
- 30-12/3 Festival of Trees—Helena 442-7920

For a complete list of events, see us at visitmt.com

FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, my office offers these services to editors, writers and producers.

Visual Materials

Color slides, 8" x 10" B/W photos and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

Mary Boyle, Publicity Coordinator